

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1 (amended): A tree stand comprising:

a platform for supporting an individual including a vertical access opening therethrough for allowing the vertical passage of an individual therethrough between a position underlying the platform and a position overlying the platform;

means for mounting said platform in a generally horizontally disposed position on an upstanding support, ~~such as a tree trunk~~;

a pair of closure doors; and

means articulately mounting said closure doors on said platform adjacent said opening for movement between

closure positions of the doors adjacent each other and generally lying in the same plane to close said opening and provide a support for an individual overlying said platform, and

open upstanding positions transverse to said plane alongside said opening to allow an individual to pass through said opening.

2 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 1 wherein said platform lies in said plane of said doors in said closure positions.

3 (amended): The tree stand set forth in claim 2 including a chair including a seat ~~seat~~ means on which an individual positioned on said platform may sit; means for mounting said ~~seat means~~ seat in vertically spaced relation with said platform.

4 (amended): The tree stand set forth in claim 3 wherein said chair ~~seat means~~ includes

a generally upstanding back frame; means articulately coupling said platform on said back frame between a support position transverse to said back frame and a stowed upstanding position extending alongside said back frame.

5 (amended): The tree stand set forth in claim 4 ~~wherein said seat means includes~~ including means articulately coupling said seat on said back frame for swinging movement between a generally horizontal support position and a generally vertical position alongside said back frame.

6 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 5 including first flaccid means spanning a front portion of said platform and portion of said back frame for precluding downward swinging movement of said platform beyond a predetermined position relative to said back frame; and second flaccid means spanning a front portion of said seat and an upper portion of said back frame to limit the downward swinging movement of said seat relative to said back frame.

7 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said closure doors includes a laterally inner edge portion and a laterally outer edge portion; said laterally inner edge portions being disposed adjacent each other and in the same plane when said closure doors are in said closure positions and disposed out of said plane when said doors are in said open positions.

8 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 7 wherein said means articulately mounting said closure doors in said platform includes means for swingably coupling at least one of said laterally outer edge portions to a portion of said platform adjacent said vertical access opening.

9 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 7 wherein said doors in said closure positions each close substantially one-half of said opening.

10 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 7 wherein said means articulately mounting said closure doors to said platform includes first and second laterally outer hinge means swingably coupled to said laterally outer portions of said pair of doors to allow said doors to concurrently swing in opposite directions as said doors move between said closure positions and said open positions.

al 11 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 10 wherein said means articulately mounting said closure doors to said platform includes hinge means swingably coupling said laterally inner edge portions together to fold said doors relative to each other to generally coextensive side-by-side positions in said open positions.

12 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 11 including guide means coupled to said laterally outer edge portion of the other of said doors to guide the laterally outer edge in a generally linear path between a position adjacent one lateral side of said opening and a position adjacent an opposite lateral side of said opening.

13 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said closure doors comprises an elongate panel having a forward end portion, a rearward end portion and laterally inner and outer edge positions spanning said forward and rearward end portions; said laterally inner edge portions lying in the same plane when said doors are in said closure positions; said means articulately mounting said closure doors including means pivotally coupling at least one of said closure doors for lateral swinging movement on said platform between said closed position and an upstanding position transverse to said plane.

14 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 13 wherein said means articulately mounting said closure doors includes hinge means swingably coupling said laterally outer portions of said closure doors to said platform for movement in opposite swinging directions between said closed positions in which said closure doors are coplanar and said open positions.

15 (original): The tree stand set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said closure doors comprises an elongate panel having a forward end portion, a rearward end portion and laterally inner and outer edge portions spanning said forward and rearward end portions; said forward end portion of one of said doors being pivotally mounted on said platform; said rearward end portion of said one door and said forward portion of the other of said doors being swingably coupled together.

al 16 (amended): A tree stand comprising;

a horizontal platform including a vertical opening therethrough of predetermined breadth of such size for allowing the passage of a person therethrough;

means for detachably coupling said platform to a vertical support, ~~such as a tree trunk~~;

first and second oppositely swingable closure means for selectively closing said opening to provide a floor on which a person passing through the opening can stand and ~~swingable~~ swingably movable on said platform to an open position allowing a person to vertically pass therethrough;

said first and second closure means each having a breadth substantially equal to one-half of said predetermined breadth.

17 (amended): In combination with a generally horizontal platform having an underside and a topside and a vertical access opening therethrough between said underside and topside of sufficient size to permit an individual to pass therethrough between said underside and topside of said platform; and means for mounting said platform on an upstanding support, ~~such as a tree trunk~~; the improvement comprising;

a pair of elongate doors having opposite end portions spanned by laterally inner and outer edge portions; means articularly mounting said doors to said platform for swinging movement between ~~closure~~ closed positions lying in the same plane and open positions transverse to said plane including

means pivotally mounting said laterally outer edge portions of said pair of elongate doors to said platform for concurrent swinging movement in opposite directions between said closed and open positions.

18 (original): In combination with a platform for supporting an individual and means for supporting said platform on a vertical support, such as an upstanding tree trunk, said platform having a front end portion, rear end portion, laterally opposite sides portion, and a vertical access opening therethrough of sufficient size to allow an individual to pass therethrough, the improvement comprising:

a front closure door having

a front end pivotally coupled to said front end portion of said platform, and

a rear end;

a rear closure door having a front end pivotally coupled to said rear end of said front closure door; said closure doors being movable between coplanar closed positions closing

said opening and transversely disposed, open folded positions in which said closure doors are disposed in confronting relation with each other.

19 (original): The combination set forth in claim 18 including means slidably coupling said rear end of said rear door to said platform for sliding movement in a linear path while said front end of said rear closure door swings between said open and closed positions.

20 (original): In combination with an elevated platform for supporting an individual and means for supporting said platform on a vertical support, ~~such as an upstanding tree trunk~~, said platform having a front end, a rear end, and laterally opposite sides spanning said front and rear ends; said front and rear ends and said laterally opposite sides defining a vertical access opening therethrough of such size as to allow an individual to vertically pass therethrough; first and second elongate closure doors each having a front end portion, a rear end portion and lateral edge portions spanning said front and rear end portions;

means articulately coupling said closure doors to said platform for swinging movement in opposite directions between coplanar closed positions closing said opening and transversely disposed open positions including pivot means articulately coupling said doors to said platform.

21. The combination set forth in Claim 24 20 wherein said platform comprises a door frame having front and rear end frame members spanned by a pair of laterally spaced side frame members; said pivot means coupling at least said ~~laterally~~ lateral outer edge portions of said doors to said front and rear end frame members for swinging movement thereon in opposite directions between said coplanar closed positions and said transversely disposed open positions on laterally outer sides of said opening.

22 (original): The combination set forth in Claim 21 wherein said front and rear end frame members comprises L-shaped frame bars having an upstanding leg and horizontal leg integral with a lower end of said upstanding leg for supporting said doors.

23 (original) The combination set forth in Claim 22 wherein said platform comprises a door frame having front and rear end frame members spanned by a pair of laterally spaced side frame members; said pivot means comprising:

first pivot members pivotally coupling said front end portion of one of said doors to said front end frame member;

second pivot members pivotally coupling said rear end portion of said one door to said front end portion of the other of said doors for relative opposite swinging movement thereon; and guide means for guiding said rear end of said other door on said frame for linear movement thereon as doors move between said open and closed positions.

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